

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6473

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, RH, MZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RAID ON MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) PRETORIA 6482 (B) MAPUTO 1414 (C) PRETORIA 6388
(D) PRETORIA 6457

1. SUMMARY: MOZAMBIQUE HAS FINALLY PUBLICIZED DETAILS OF NOVEMBER 23-24 RHODESIAN RAID IN MANICA PROVINCE. THE ESTIMATES OF CASUALTIES ARE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN REPORTED BY RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN SOURCES. THE MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STATED THAT ALL VICTIMS WERE CIVILIANS AND THAT THE CAMP WAS COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF CIVILIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE MAJOR RHODESIAN RAID WHICH TOOK PLACE NOVEMBER 23-24 ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS FROM CHIMOIO.

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MAPUTO DAILY NEWSPAER NOTICIAS DECEMBER 1 CARRIED DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS STATEMENT IN FRONT PAGE STORY AND TWO FULL INSIDE PAGES OF PICTURES OF THE DAMAGES. THE PICTURES INCLUDE BADLY-BURNED CORPSES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND PRESENT A GRUESOME SPECTACLE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

3. A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MOZAMBIQUE DEFENSE MINISTRY SAID, IN

PART (EMBASSY TRANSLATION) QUOTE: ON THE 23RD OF NOVEMBER AT 7:45 AM, THE ARMED FORCES OF THE BRITISH COLONY OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA LAUNCHED A SHAMEFUL ATTACK AGAINST A REFUGEE TRANSIT CENTER, SITUATED 20 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF CHIMOIO, BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS OF MAPA-RANGUE AND MOCUMBEZI. THIS CENTER, EXCLUSIVELY FOR CIVILIANS, IS DESIGNED TO RECEIVE REFUGEES BEFORE THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED AMONG OTHER CAMPS.

4. QUOTE: THE ENEMY ATTACKED WITH JET BOMBERS, WHICH DROPPED DRUMS OF NAPALM AND FRAGMENTATION BOMBS. THESE BOMBINGS CONTINUED UNTIL THE AFTERNOON OF THE 24TH. TEN HELICOPTERS AND TWO DC-3S DROPPED PARACHUTISTS AND TROOPS ONTO THE GROUND NUMEROUS TIMES WHILE MACHINE GUNNERS ATTACKED FROM HELICOPTERS.. THE ATTACK'S FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE WAS THE DELIBERATE MASSACRE OF DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS. VICTIMS WERE FOUND STUFFED THREE INSIDE GASOLINE DRUMS, MACHINE-GUNNED...(OTHERS) TIED TOGETHER AND STABBED WITH BAYONETS.

5. QUOTE: THE LATEST TOTAL OF CASUALTIES IS 85 DEAD, INCLUDING 55 CHILDREN, 21 WOMEN AND 9 MEN. 8 PERSONS ARE STILL MISSING. 534 WERE INJURED, OF WHOM 234 STILL REQUIRE MEDICAL ATTENTION, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THREE MOZAMBIKAN CIVILIANS WERE INJURED.

6. QUOTE: OUR FORCES PURSUED THE ENEMY, FORCING THEM TO RETREAT BY AIR.. SAVING THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 2000 REFUGEES. BECAUSE THE ATTACK WAS IN A REFUGEE CAMP, WE COULD NOT USE OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS, WHICH WOULD HAVE ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF THE REFUGEES.. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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END QUOTE.

7. THE ACCOMPANYING ACCOUNT BY A MOZAMBIQUE JOURNALIST DETAILED THE DESTRUCTION OF AN AMBULANCE CARRYING INJURED VICTIM TO THE HOSPITAL, -AND ATTACK ON A SCHOOL OF 800 CHILDREN AND OTHER TRAGIC AND BRUTAL EVENTS.

8. COMMENT: NO MENTION IS MADE OF ATTACKS ON MILITARY TARGETS OR OF 1,200 CASUALTIES, (REF A). PROBABLY THE CAMP DESCRIBED IN THE MOZAMBIQUE PRESS IS A SUPPORT CAMP OF DEPENDENTS AND NON-COMBATANTS

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NEAR OR ATTACHED TO A ZANU MILITARY CAMP, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTACKED. FROM THE PICTURES AND DETAILS, CHILDREN AND CIVILIAN TARGETS WERE OBVIOUSLY HIT, AND A NUMBER OF THE CORPSES ARE BADLY BURNED, LEADING SUPPORT TO ALLEGATION OF NAPALM USE.

9. THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION STATES THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN MOZAMBIQUE AT THE PRESENT TIME. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME WILL BE PERMITTED TO INSPECT THE DAMAGED AREA.
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